

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the pending claims according to the clean version of the entire set of pending claims herewith submitted in a single paper in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(c)(3). Each amended claim therein rewritten is indicated by the parenthetical expression "amended" following the claim number, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(c)(1)(i). In addition, as required by 37 CFR 1.121(c)(1)(ii), this amendment is accompanied by another version of the rewritten claims marked up to show all the changes relative to the previous version of each amended claim. As stated in 37 CFR 1.121(c)(3), each claim in the clean version not accompanied by a marked up version constitutes an assertion that it has not been changed relative to the immediate prior version.

CLEAN VERSION OF ENTIRE SET OF PENDING CLAIMS

SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH 37 CFR 1.121(c)(3)

IN RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF 5 JUNE 2001

CLAIMS

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1. (Amended) A method of making a flangeless seam by joining two members of a disposable article, the method comprising the steps of:
providing a first member of the disposable article;
folding the first member of the disposable article providing opposing first proximal and first distal portions of the first member;
providing an electromagnetic field responsive member adjacent at least a portion of the first member;
providing a second member of the disposable article juxtaposed at least a portion of the first member to form a laminate including the first member, the second member and the electromagnetic field responsive member; and
applying an electromagnetic field across at least a portion of the laminate to heat the electromagnetic field responsive member to a temperature which joins at least a portion of the first member and at least a portion of the second member.
2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the electromagnetic field responsive member is integral with at least a portion of the second member.
3. The method of Claim 1 wherein the first member is folded about both the electromagnetic field responsive member and at least a portion of the second member.

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4. (Amended) A method of making a flangeless seam by joining two members of a disposable article, the method comprising the steps of:
providing a first member of the disposable article;
folding the first member of the disposable article providing opposing first proximal and first distal portions of the first member;
providing an electromagnetic field responsive member disposed at least partially between the opposing first proximal and first distal portions of the first member;

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providing a second member of the disposable article in a folded configuration juxtaposed at least a portion of the first member to form a laminate including the first member, the second member, and the electromagnetic field responsive member; and
applying an electromagnetic field across at least a portion of the laminate to heat the electromagnetic field responsive member to a temperature which joins at least a portion of the first member and at least a portion of the second member.

A8 5. (Amended) The method of Claim 4 further comprising the step of pulling apart the first member and the second member to form the flangeless seam.

6. The method of Claim 4 further comprising the step of removing the electromagnetic field responsive member after the first member and the second member have been joined.

A9 7. (Amended) The method of Claim 4 wherein the first member is folded before the electromagnetic field responsive member is interposed between the opposing first proximal and first distal portions.

8. The method of Claim 4 wherein the first member includes more than one fold.

9. The method of Claim 4 wherein the electromagnetic field responsive member is integral with at least a portion of the first member.

10. The method of Claim 4 wherein the first member is folded about both the electromagnetic field responsive member and at least a portion of the second member.

11. The method of Claim 4 wherein the electromagnetic field responsive member includes a material selected from the following group: metallic foil, metallic screen or metallic powder.

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12. A method of making a flangeless seam by joining two members of a disposable article, the method comprising the steps of:
providing a first member of the disposable article;

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folding the first member of the disposable article providing opposing first proximal and first distal portions of the first member;
providing a heat activatable adhesive adjacent at least a portion of the first distal portion;
providing an electromagnetic field responsive member adjacent at least a portion of the first distal portion;
providing a second member of the disposable article juxtaposed at least a portion of the first member to form a laminate including the first member, the second member, the heat activatable adhesive and the electromagnetic field responsive member; and
applying an electromagnetic field across at least a portion of the laminate to heat the electromagnetic field responsive member to a temperature which activates the heat activatable adhesive such that the adhesive joins at least a portion of the first member and at least a portion of the second member.

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13. (Amended) A method of making a flangeless seam by joining two members of a disposable article, the method comprising the steps of:
providing a first member of the disposable article;
providing an electromagnetic field responsive member adjacent at least a portion of the first member;
folding the first member of the disposable article about the electromagnetic field responsive member providing opposing first proximal and first distal portions of the first member, the electromagnetic field responsive member being disposed at least partially between the opposing first proximal and first distal portions;
providing a second member of the disposable article in a folded configuration having opposing second proximal and second distal portions, at least a portion of the second distal portion being juxtaposed at least a portion of the first member to form a laminate including the first member, the second member and the electromagnetic field responsive member;
applying an electromagnetic field across at least a portion of the laminate to heat the electromagnetic field responsive member to a temperature which joins at least a portion of the first distal portion, the second distal portion and the second proximal portion, the electromagnetic field responsive member preventing the joining of the first proximal portion with the first distal portion;
removing the electromagnetic field responsive member; and

pulling apart the first proximal portion and the first distal portion to form the flangeless seam.

14. (Amended) The method of Claim 13 further including the step of providing a secondary joining means across at least a portion of the laminate.

15. The method of Claim 14 wherein the secondary joining means includes an adhesive.

16. (Amended) The method of Claim 14 wherein the electromagnetic field responsive member prevents the secondary joining means from joining the first proximal portion with the first distal portion.

17. (Amended) A method of making a flangeless seam by joining two members of a disposable article, the method comprising the steps of:
providing a first member of the disposable article;
providing an electromagnetic field responsive member adjacent at least a portion of the first member;
folding the first member of the disposable article about the electromagnetic field responsive member providing opposing first proximal and first distal portions of the first member, the electromagnetic field responsive member being disposed at least partially between the opposing first proximal and first distal portions;
providing a second member of the disposable article in a folded configuration having opposing second proximal and second distal portions, at least a portion of the second distal portion being juxtaposed at least a portion of the first member to form a laminate including the first member, the second member and the electromagnetic field responsive member;
providing a barrier member between the second proximal portion and the second distal portion;
applying an electromagnetic field across at least a portion of the laminate to heat the electromagnetic field responsive member to a temperature which joins at least a portion of the first member and the second member, the barrier member preventing the joining of the second proximal portion with the second distal portion;
removing the barrier member; and

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pulling apart the second proximal portion and the second distal portion to form the flangeless seam

all 18. (Amended) The method of Claim 17 further including the step of providing a secondary joining means across at least a portion of the laminate.

19. The method of Claim 18 wherein the secondary joining means includes an adhesive.

a12 20. (Amended) The method of Claim 18 wherein the barrier member prevents the secondary joining means from joining the first proximal portion with the first distal portion.
